

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for extending a telephone's capability comprising steps of:  
2 enabling a telephone to store call-related data in memory  
3 located within said telephone;  
4 enabling a computer to alternatively store said call-related data  
5 in memory located within said computer;  
6 receiving first call-related data at said telephone;  
7 recognizing that said first call-related data is to be stored in  
8 memory;  
9 determining, within said telephone, whether said first call-related  
10 data will be stored in said telephone memory or said computer memory; and  
11 storing said first call-related data in said telephone memory or  
12 said computer memory based upon said determination.

1 2. The method of claim 1 further including a step of establishing a direct data  
2 connection between said telephone and said computer.

1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein said telephone and said computer are  
2 located within a common workspace, said step of establishing said direct data  
3 connection being independent of providing connectivity for receiving said first.  
4 call-related data.

1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein said telephone is enabled to perform  
2 telephone functions independently of said computer.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of determining includes steps of:  
2 monitoring storage availability within said telephone memory;  
3 comparing said monitored storage availability to a storage  
4 threshold that is related to said telephone memory; and  
5 storing said first call-related data in said computer memory  
6 when said storage threshold related to said telephone memory is exceeded.

1 6. The method of claim 5 further including a step of retrieving call-related  
2 data from said computer to said telephone in response to signals from said  
3 telephone.

1 7. The method of claim 1 further including steps of:  
2 enabling a first processor located within said telephone to  
3 process data received at said telephone;  
4 enabling a second processor located within said computer to  
5 process data received at said telephone;  
6 recognizing that said first call-related data received at said  
7 telephone is to be processed; and  
8 determining, within said telephone, whether said first call-related  
9 data will be processed by said first processor or said second processor.

1 8. The method of claim 1 further including a step of utilizing a processor of  
2 said computer to process at least a portion of said first call-related data in  
3 response to instructions from said telephone.

1 9. The method of claim 1 further including a step of establishing a data con-  
2 nection between said telephone and said computer by connecting said  
3 telephone separately to a telephone network and to said computer.

1 10. An apparatus for extending the capability of a telephone comprising:  
2 means, located within said telephone, for receiving data from a  
3 telephone network;  
4 means, located within said telephone, for storing said data  
5 received from said telephone network;  
6 means, operatively associated with said means for receiving,  
7 for enabling said telephone to determine whether said data received at said  
8 telephone will be maintained at said telephone or transferred to a computer;  
9 and  
10 means, operatively associated with said telephone, for trans-  
11 ferring said data between said telephone and said computer.

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sub a2

sub a3

1 16. The apparatus of claim 10 further including:  
2 means, located within said telephone, for processing said data  
3 received from said telephone network;  
4 means, located within said computer, for processing said data  
5 received from said telephone; and  
6 means, located within said telephone, for determining whether  
7 said data received at said telephone from said telephone network will be  
8 processed within said telephone processing means or said computer  
9 processing means.

Sub B2

1 17. A method of extending the capability of a telephone comprising the steps  
2 of:

3 enabling a first processor resident in a telephone to process  
4 data received at said telephone;

5 enabling a second processor resident in a computer to process  
6 data received at said telephone;

7 receiving call-related data at said telephone;

8 recognizing that said call-related data requires further process-  
9 ing;

10 determining, within said telephone, whether said call-related  
11 data will be processed in said first processor or said second processor; and

12 processing said call-related data in either said telephone or said  
13 computer based upon said determination.

1 18. The method of claim 17 further including a step of establishing a direct  
2 data connection between said telephone and said computer, wherein said  
3 telephone and said computer are located within a common workspace and  
4 wherein said telephone is configured to perform telephone functions  
5 independently of said computer.

1 19. The method of claim 18 further including steps of:

2 enabling said telephone to store data received at said telephone  
3 in memory located within said telephone;

4 enabling said computer to store data received at said telephone  
5 in memory located within said computer;

6 recognizing that said received call-related data is to be stored in  
7 memory;

8 determining, within said telephone, whether said call-related  
9 data will be stored in said telephone memory or said computer memory; and

10 storing said call-related data in said telephone memory or said  
11 computer memory based upon said determination.

1 20. The method of claim 19 wherein said steps of determining are performed  
2 by an application programming interface residing within said telephone.